Millom Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Summary of Action taken during the Year ended Dec. 31st 1898, to prevent the spread of Disease.

Small Pox.—No cases. How long we can say the same it is quite impossible to say. I fear that within the next few years we shall see a widespread outbreak of smallpox all over the country, and in Millom as elsewhere we shall no doubt have to pay dearly for the "conscientious objector." I find there are 27 unvaccinated children born in 1897, and 156 born in 1898 or *nearly one half.* The more I see of the New Vaccination Act the better I like it, and if amended in the following particulars would in my opinion be of undoubted value. 1st, the fee payable by the "conscientious objector" for certificate of exemption, should be the same as that paid to the Public Vaccinator of his district, and would vary from a minimum of 6s. to 25s. or 30s. according to distance; a very large number of the present "conscientious objectors" would have their children vaccinated rather than pay such a fee. 2nd, all vaccinations should be up to the standard required by the Local Government Board, this would do away with the present very inefficient vaccination where the shilling vaccinator only makes one or two small marks leaving the parents under the delusion that their child is protected from smallpox which it certainly is not, and thus bringing vaccination into disrepute. Of the 185 children vaccinated in 1898 many were, I believe, insufficiently vaccinated.

Scarlet Fever.—Nine cases, against 87 last year. No deaths.

Typhus Fever.—No cases.

Enteric Fever.—23 cases, against 21 last year. Two deaths. These cases were I believe sporadic, I could not trace them in any way to a common origin, they did not come all at once, but

each month from April had cases in it, the larger number as is usual occurring in the Autumn months.

Diarrhœa.—No deaths.

Diphtheria.—No cases.

Croup.—No cases.

Measles.—No cases.

Whooping Cough.—No deaths.

Erysipelas.—Eight cases. No deaths.

Notification of Disease.—40 were reported, against 121 in 1897 and 286 in 1896. Enteric Fever, 23 cases. Scarlet Fever, nine cases. Erysipelas, eight.

Water.—Good in quantity and quality.

Bad Meat.—Not any.

Offensive Trades.—Not any.

Sewerage.—Very satisfactory. 15 yard drains were cleared and repaired. 18 trapped gullies substituted for defective ones.

23 Yards paved or relaid.

40 Water Closets cleared or repaired.

Five removals of manure.

31 Slopstone water-pipes lengthened or repaired.

Scavenging continues to give satisfaction. 10,500 ash-pits or middens containing 3,083 loads of refuse were emptied. Middens converted into W.C.'s 34, leaving only 31 yet to be done.

Reports have been made to each Council Meeting during the year, shewing the work done, Birth and Death rate, and other matters connected with the Sanitary state of the District. A house to house visitation has been made to each of the 1813 houses now in the District, an increase of 27, and a special visit has been paid where any nuisance or infectious case has been reported. Five common lodging-houses and 12 slaughter-houses were also inspected.

Zymotic Disease caused four deaths, a decrease of ten on last year.

The steam disinfector has been used seven times, and disinfectants have been supplied gratuitously to all infectious cases reported, the premises inspected, and notices served to have all sanitary defects made good, and the School Attendance Officer

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and the Librarian have had one notice of each case of Infectious Disease.

Deaths number 103, a decrease of 38 on last year and 58 on 1896, or 10.17 per 1,000, the lowest death rate we have ever had. Of these 30 were under 1 year, a decrease of 15 on last year, 16 under 5, 3 under 15, 9 under 25, 29 under 65, and 16 over 65, against 28 last year.

Births, 317, or 31.12 per 1,000, a decrease of 39 on last year.

Inspector of Nuisances.—This department continues to give satisfaction.

I enclose tables as required by the Local Government Board and will forward copies of this report to them and the County Council in due course.

P. BUTLER STONEY,

Medical Officer of Health.

February 2nd, 1899.